

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 TEL AV 08070 221405Z

53

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SS-15 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 IO-10

SAM-01 SAB-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /046 W

----- 125350

O 221336Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9461

INFO USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS TEL AVIV 8070

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (ATHERTON, ALFRED L.), IS

SUBJECT: ATHERTON ARRIVAL STATEMENT TEL AVIV

ASSISTANT SECRETARY ALFRED L. ATHERTON MADE FOLLOWING
ARRIVAL STATEMENT AT BEN GURION AIRPORT MONDAY, DECEMBER 22,
IN RESPONSE TO PRESS QUESTIONS:

"FIRST OF ALL, I WANT TO SAY THAT I'M VERY HAPPY INDEED TO BE
BACK IN ISRAEL. I LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING MANY OLD FRIENDS,
AND ALSO TO THE EXCHANGE OF VIEWS THAT I UNDERSTAND I WILL BE
HAVING WITH THE PRIME MINISTER AND THE FOREIGN MINISTER. AS
YOU KNOW, OUR TWO COUNTRIES HAVE A LONG HISTORY OF FRIENDLY AND
CONTINUING DIALOGUE, AND MY VISIT OUGHT TO BE SEEN IN THE
CONTEXT OF THAT DIALOGUE.

"I WAS TRAVELING WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER IN EUROPE.
HE ASKED ME IF I WOULD COME ON TO THE MIDDLE EAST AND
VISIT KEY CAPITALS. THIS IS PART OF OUR CONTINUING CONSULTATIONS
WITH COUNTRIES IN THIS AREA IN OUR SEARCH FOR A JUST AND
LASTING PEACE.

"I WANT TO EMPHASIZE THAT I AM NOT BRING ANY PROPOSALS.

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I AM SIMPLY HERE TO SHARE VIEWS WITH OUR FRIENDS IN THE

COUNTRIES CONCERNED ABOUT OUR PRESENT THINKING ON MATTERS OF
MUTUAL INTEREST INCLUDING THE FORTHCOMING DEBATE IN THE SECURITY
COUNCIL, AND TO HEAR THE VIEWS OF ALL THE COUNTRIES CONCERNED.
I WILL CARRY THESE BACK WITH ME AND REPORT THEM TO MY
GOVERNMENT."

QUESTION: DO YOU HAVE ANY PARTICULAR VIEWPOINT OR ANY
QUESTIONS TO BE ASKED REGARDING THE GOLAN--THE EXTENSION OF
THE SETTLEMENTS ON THE GOLAN HEIGHTS?

ANSWER: SINCE I HAVE NOT YET HAD MY TALKS WITH THE
PRIME MINISTER AND THE FOREIGN MINISTER, I DON'T THINK IT
WILL BE APPROPRIATE FOR ME TO GET INTO SPECIFICS ON THE KINDS
OF THINGS I WILL BE TALKING ABOUT.
TOON

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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TAGS: OVIP, IS, (ATHERTON, ALFRED L)
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